



£600 PCs

If you want to edit photos and video footage, rip MP3s, play games and watch DVDs, you don't need an expensive, high-spec PC. We show you how to get all the power you need for just £600 including VAT

IN THIS REVIEW

Carrera Vision Plus CS-04
Cube 247 Zeta ST4
Gladiator Jupiter 2 6200
Mesh Matrix Prestige CSX
PC Nextday Zoostorm 3-4301 Versatile PC
Watford Aries Performa 5562 CS-04

The financial demands of modern life can be very stressful. Mortgages, bills, debts and taxes all nibble away at your hard-earned wages, leaving little to spend on items such as a top-of-the-range computer. However, a tight budget doesn't mean having to settle for an underpowered system using out-of-date technology.

This month we've tested six desktop PCs that cost just £600 including VAT and delivery. Unlike some bargain-basement computers, these are capable systems equipped with the latest future-proof technologies such as PCI Express, SATA and

DVI. With a few choice upgrades, these PCs should satisfy most of your needs for the foreseeable future.

All the PCs in our round-up come equipped with sleek, space-saving flat-panel monitors, enough hard disk space for all but the largest files and at least 512MB of RAM. Most also include speakers and two-layer DVD writers.

No matter what you want to do with a PC – organising your holiday snaps, keeping your finances in order or even blasting a few demons in the latest games – we'll help you find the right computer without breaking the bank.



CHOOSING A... £600 PC

When you're buying a PC on a tight budget, it's particularly important that every component is exactly the right one for you. Our guide to buying a PC in this price bracket will show you what to look for

Buying a really cheap PC means you have to prioritise. You'll want strength in the areas that matter most to you, and you'll have to accept some weaknesses elsewhere. You'll also want a PC with enough scope to upgrade it in the future. For manufacturers, building an affordable budget PC is a delicate balancing act. Choosing a premium monitor or graphics card, for example, could mean having to settle for an underpowered processor.

PROCESSING PROWESS

The processor is an important part of any PC and different kinds of processors have different strengths and weaknesses. The PCs in this month's group use either an Intel Pentium 4 or an AMD Athlon 64 processor.

The Pentium 4 is a good choice for video editing, as shown by our benchmarks on page 154. Many people are also reassured by the familiar Intel brand. But the Athlon 64, especially the 3200+, is no slouch, especially in tasks such as image editing.

If you are planning to upgrade your processor in the future, it makes sense to choose a PC whose motherboard supports dual-core processors. This is more likely with an Athlon 64 system. Most Socket 939 boards can be upgraded with a dual-core Athlon 64 X2 processor, though a BIOS upgrade is often necessary.

For more information on processors, see our *Labs* group test in *Shopper*, January 2006.

RAM RAIDING

All the PCs in this group have at least 512MB of RAM, which is enough for running Windows, performing office tasks and surfing the web. However, applications that work on very large files, such as Photoshop or Premiere Elements, will benefit from additional memory. This is evident on page 154, where the Gladiator Jupiter system blazed through our image-editing test, largely due to it having 1GB of RAM.

Adding more RAM to your system is a fairly simple task. But the PCs submitted by Carrera, PC



▲ A 19" monitor can display a larger and more legible image than a 17" model

Nextday and Watford have an annoying limitation: they have only two RAM slots. As these slots are already occupied by two 256MB RAM modules – which is necessary for optimum performance in such dual-channel systems – one or both of these chips will have to be removed if you want to add more RAM.

PANOPTICON

A fast and capable PC is of no use if you have to squint at your monitor to see what is going on. Thankfully bulky and power-hungry CRT monitors are a thing of the past and all the PCs in this group come with slim, flat-panel LCD monitors.

Most of the displays are 17" models, although a couple are of the 19" variety. These 19" flat panels share the same native resolution of 1,280x1,024 as the smaller 17" models so while you won't be able to fit more information on them, the increased readability will benefit those with failing eyesight.

However, not all LCDs are equal, with image and build quality varying significantly. Read our reviews to see which panels in this test make the grade.

GRAPHIC VIOLENCE

At the bargain price of £600, we weren't expecting to see any PCs capable of running the latest and most demanding 3D games. Most of the PCs fulfilled this expectation by coming equipped with underpowered graphics cards

that will suffice for older games but struggle with newer titles.

However, we were pleasantly surprised when a few PCs bucked this trend. The Gladiator Jupiter has SLI capability, so you can add a beefier pair of nVidia graphics cards for a healthy 3D performance boost in the future. The PC Nextday and Mesh PCs come with the most powerful graphics cards in this group for more instant gratification.

SPEAK UP

Almost all the systems in this group come with stereo speakers. These should be adequate for the system beeps emitted by Windows and for listening to the occasional MP3 or internet radio station. But for a better-sounding and more immersive experience – especially if you are an audio buff or you watch DVDs or play games on your PC – take a look at our *Labs* test of speakers on page 195.

PORTS OF CALL

All the PCs in this group have Ethernet, which allows you to transfer files quickly to and from other PCs on a network, share resources such as printers and access the internet at broadband speeds without having to rely on USB modems and their troublesome drivers. Some systems even have Gigabit Ethernet, ensuring the fastest possible file transfer speeds if your router/switch and other computers are similarly equipped.

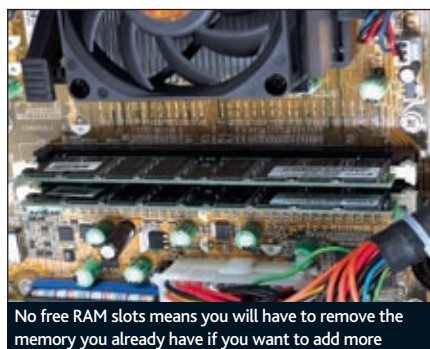
If you still access the internet via dial-up, you will need to budget for either a USB or PCI modem or consider upgrading to broadband, as dial-up modems are almost totally absent in this group.

Only one of the PCs here has a FireWire port, which is a necessity if you are planning on using an older MiniDV video camera with your PC. PCI FireWire adaptors can be added for a mere £15, or you can opt for one of the increasing number of video cameras that can connect via USB. For more about camcorders, see page 161.

WARRANTIES

The PCs we tested are backed up by at least a one-year return-to-base warranty in the event of something going horribly wrong. A few systems, such as the Carrera Vision Plus and Watford Aries Performa, even have onsite warranties. The table on page 156 shows what kind of warranty is included with each PC, along with details on when you can receive technical support via telephone.

◀ These bundled stereo speaker sets are sufficient for basic, general use



No free RAM slots means you will have to remove the memory you already have if you want to add more



CARRERA Vision Plus CS-04

RATING ★★★★★

PRICE £600 inc VAT

SUPPLIER Watford Electronics 08716 661616

DETAILS www.savastore.com

The Vision Plus CS-04 looks as if it costs considerably more than it does, with a smart and understated case plus a big, bright monitor.

FEATURES

Unsurprisingly for a budget PC, the Vision comes with only 512MB of RAM. If you want to get the best possible performance from memory-hungry applications such as Photoshop, 1GB would be better. However, the Vision has only two RAM slots that are already filled with two 256MB chips, so you'll have to discard some memory if you wish to upgrade.

Although the Vision doesn't come with a floppy drive, memory card reader or FireWire, it is paired with a crystal-clear AG Neovo 19" monitor. The backlighting is bright and even and there was hardly any banding in our greyscale and colour transitions tests. This is the best monitor in the group and a real treat in a £600 PC. The Vision is also notable for having a one-year onsite warranty.

PERFORMANCE

The 1.8GHz Athlon 64 3000+ is the slowest processor in this group and this resulted in the worst score in our video-encoding benchmark. Overall, it scored 97 in our applications benchmarks, which puts it last but one in the group, but as the fastest PC scored only 110, this isn't too bad a result.

The Vision gave a better showing in our 3D gaming benchmarks. Equipped with an ATI Radeon X550, it scored 14.1fps in our Doom 3 test. Running at lower detail settings, the Vision would make a reasonable gaming PC but the latest games will demand a more powerful graphics card.

VERDICT

Carrera has been generous in its choice of monitor and warranty for the Vision. If it were a little faster in Windows, it could have been a contender for this month's top spot.

✓ Excellent monitor; onsite warranty

✗ Below-average Windows performance; no free RAM slots

SPECIFICATIONS AMD Athlon 64 3000+, 512MB RAM, 160GB hard disk, 256MB ATI Radeon X550, DVD+/-RW +/-DL, 19" LCD



CUBE 247 Zeta ST4

RATING ★★★★★

PRICE £599 inc VAT

SUPPLIER Cube Enterprises 08702 421179

DETAILS www.cube247.co.uk

The Zeta is a well-equipped PC, but its integrated graphics chip hampers its 3D performance.

FEATURES

The Zeta may not have Gigabit Ethernet, but the 12 USB ports more than compensate for this. There's also a FireWire port, a feature that's absent from all the other PCs here. To prevent potentially dangerous tampering, the BIOS is password-protected, although the password can be obtained from Cube's technical support.

The Zeta is one of the few PCs to include a 200GB hard disk and a coaxial S/PDIF port for connecting high-end hi-fi equipment. The 17" AMW monitor is reasonably easy to adjust, although it displayed some subtle banding in our greyscale and colour transition tests.

Although the Zeta has one free PCI slot and two free PCI Express slots, the corresponding brackets on the back are already occupied by risers for the USB, S-video, S/PDIF and composite ports. Most of these could have been moved to other brackets, unblocking access to the PCI slots.

PERFORMANCE

Thanks to its 3GHz Pentium 4 630 processor, the Zeta performed well in our video-encoding test, achieving a score of 108. It managed an above-average 106 in our applications benchmarks.

Although the Pentium 4 is a powerful processor, the Zeta shares system memory with the integrated graphics chip, which saps its performance in tasks that need lots of RAM. Initially, the system managed to score just 75 in our image-editing benchmark, but after reducing the amount of system memory allocated to the graphics chip we increased this to 93.

The Radeon X300 graphics chip made Doom 3 virtually unplayable, managing only 2fps, and is not cut out for even casual gaming.

VERDICT

The Zeta is a well-specified system, but the graphics chip limits its 3D performance greatly.

✓ Plenty of USB ports; FireWire; spacious hard disk

✗ Weedy graphics chip

SPECIFICATIONS 3GHz Intel Pentium 4 630, 512MB RAM, 200GB hard disk, 128MB ATI Radeon X300, DVD+/-RW +/-DL, 17" LCD



GLADIATOR Jupiter 2 6200

RATING ★★★★★

PRICE £599 inc VAT

SUPPLIER Gladiator 08456 444666

DETAILS www.gladiatorcomputers.com

While the Jupiter's performance is generally average, its expansion capabilities set it apart from the crowd.

FEATURES

The Jupiter is one of the few PCs in this group to have 7.1 line out capability, so the bundled Logitech 2.0 speakers can be replaced with a more impressive surround-sound setup that's better suited to watching DVDs and gaming. The coaxial S/PDIF port should also attract audio enthusiasts on a budget.

The wired Logitech keyboard and mouse are comfortable and the inclusion of Gigabit Ethernet, a floppy drive and a memory card reader are all welcome, as are the two free PCI slots. The Hyundai 17" monitor lacks DVI input but still managed to produce a sharp image.

PERFORMANCE

In our overall applications benchmark, the Jupiter scored a decent but not outstanding 103. The 1GB of RAM helps you manipulate very large files, as seen in our image-editing test, where the Gladiator scored a speedy 112. The Athlon 3200+ is a Socket 939 processor, so you should have plenty of options in the future if you decide to upgrade to a more powerful processor.

The Jupiter managed just 6fps in our Doom 3 test, which is what we would expect from a budget graphics card such as the nVidia GeForce 6200. On the plus side, the Jupiter is the only PC in this group to have SLI capability. Although its current 3D performance is weedy, the Jupiter can benefit from a healthy boost in the future by adding a pair of SLI-capable graphics cards.

VERDICT

With its current specifications, the Jupiter is a capable but not extraordinary PC. But its bevy of expansion options, especially SLI, mean it is an attractive long-term option for gamers on a tight budget and those who plan to customise their PC in the future.

✓ Good expansion options, including SLI

✗ Average performance

SPECIFICATIONS AMD Athlon 64 3200+, 1GB RAM, 160GB hard disk, 256MB nVidia GeForce 6200, DVD+/-RW +/-DL, 17" LCD



MESH Matrix Prestige CSX

RATING ★★☆☆

PRICE £599 inc VAT

SUPPLIER Mesh Computers 08700 464747

DETAILS www.meshcomputers.com

The Matrix is one of two PCs in this group capable of running the latest games. However, it's less suitable for intensive Windows tasks.

FEATURES

The Matrix is the only PC in this group to come with office software: Microsoft Works 8.5. It is also the only PC here to come with a modem for dial-up internet access at 56Kbit/s.

The 160GB hard disk should be enough for most Windows tasks, but those planning to edit video will want more. You're also limited in how much storage you can add. There are only two free 3½" drive bays and just one free SATA port.

The 17" ViewSonic monitor produces bright and clear colours, although it has trouble reproducing subtle variations in colours and shades of grey. The hardwired D-sub cable means that if the cable becomes defective, the entire monitor has to be serviced.

PERFORMANCE

The ATI Radeon X1600 Pro graphics chip should be able to handle most of today's games and managed a smooth 32fps in our Doom3 test.

Performance in Windows was less impressive. Although the Matrix has an Athlon 64 3200+ processor and 512MB of RAM, it suffers the same problem as the Cube Zeta ST4. Despite having a standalone Radeon graphics card, the Matrix's additional motherboard-integrated graphics chip steals some of its system memory, sapping performance. It managed only 76 in our applications benchmarks, but after reducing the amount of system memory allocated to the graphics chip, we boosted this to 94. Disabling the integrated graphics rendered the Matrix inoperable and the BIOS had to be reset.

VERDICT

While the Matrix will blast through the latest games, it is outgunned by the PC Nextday Zoostorm. Its Windows performance and limited storage make it less suitable for creative tasks.

✓ Speedy graphics card

✗ Unimpressive Windows performance; limited internal expansion

SPECIFICATIONS AMD Athlon 64 3200+, 512MB RAM, 160GB hard disk, 512MB ATI Radeon X1600 Pro, DVD+/-RW +/-DL, 17" LCD



PC NEXTDAY Zoostorm 3-4301 Versatile PC

RATING ★★★★★

PRICE £600 inc VAT

SUPPLIER sales@pcnextday.co.uk

DETAILS www.pcnextday.co.uk



The Zoostorm shares the same case and monitor as the Cube 247 PC, but distinguishes itself with a couple of features unique in this group.

FEATURES

The Zoostorm has two PCI Express x16 slots so it can accommodate an extra graphics card and run two monitors at the same time, which is useful for video editors and users of palette-heavy applications such as Photoshop. The Zoostorm is not an SLI-capable system like the Gladiator Jupiter, though.

Like the Carrera Vision Plus, the Zoostorm has just two RAM slots. With two 256MB modules fitted, some memory would have to be disposed of if you want to upgrade the RAM. The lack of FireWire and the cramped keyboard and ball mouse are also disappointing. The own-brand three-piece speakers, on the other hand, have good bass and are fine for listening to Windows' beeps and the occasional MP3.

PERFORMANCE

The Zoostorm has 512MB of RAM and a 3GHz Pentium 4 processor and its performance in Windows nudged ahead of the similarly equipped Cube Zeta ST4 to come top in our applications benchmarks, scoring 110. The Pentium 4 excelled in our video-encoding test with a score of 119. A couple of the Athlon-based systems pulled ahead of the Zoostorm when it came to image editing, though.

Equipped with a 128MB GeForce 6600GT graphics card, the Zoostorm outclassed all the other PCs in 3D games. It clocked up a very playable 42fps in our Doom 3 test.

VERDICT

The Zoostorm performs well in Windows and excels as a games PC. The lack of any free RAM slots is the only real flaw in an otherwise great-value system.

✓ Two 16x PCI Express slots; excellent 3D performance

✗ No free RAM slots

SPECIFICATIONS 3GHz Intel Pentium 4 531, 512MB RAM, 160GB hard disk, 128MB nVidia GeForce 6600GT, DVD+/-RW +/-DL, 17" LCD



WATFORD Aries Performa 5562 CS-04

RATING ★★☆☆

PRICE £600 inc VAT

SUPPLIER Watford Electronics 08716 661616

DETAILS www.savastore.com

The Aries performs well in Windows but is let down by a very poor-quality monitor.

FEATURES

The Aries is one of the two systems in this group to be blessed with a spacious 200GB hard disk. It lacks a floppy drive and memory card reader, but the supplied wired Microsoft keyboard and mouse are comfortable enough. The omission of separate speakers means having to rely on the tinny built-in speakers in the monitor.

The 19" LCD is the only screen in this group to have a glossy finish that makes colours appear brighter and blacks darker. Gloss finish displays are usually ideal for watching DVDs, but there was noticeable blurring on this non-widescreen Suyama display. The main disadvantage of gloss-finish displays is their susceptibility to glaring reflections from nearby bright light. This was particularly distracting with the Suyama.

The build quality of the monitor is appalling. It is made of cheap-feeling plastic that creaks alarmingly when you tilt or swivel it. Pressing too hard near the buttons for the onscreen display can activate the onscreen menus for adjusting contrast and other features. A conspicuous dead red pixel also failed to impress us.

PERFORMANCE

The Aries has just two RAM slots. With both of these occupied, chips will have to be disposed of if you add more RAM. The Athlon 64 3200+ processor performed well in our applications benchmarks, scoring 107. It fared less well in our video-encoding test with a below-average score of 93. The Aries struggled in our Doom 3 test, managing only 6fps, proving that the GeForce 6500 is an underpowered graphics card.

VERDICT

The Aries is fast in Windows and has a generous warranty and hard disk. But the cheap monitor, lack of free RAM slots and poor 3D performance make the Aries bad value.

✓ Respectable Windows performance; spacious hard disk

✗ No free RAM slots; terrible monitor build quality

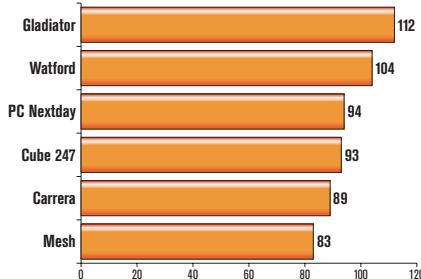
SPECIFICATIONS AMD Athlon 64 3200+, 512MB RAM, 200GB hard disk, 256MB nVidia GeForce 6500, DVD+/-RW +/-DL, 19" LCD



BENCHMARKS

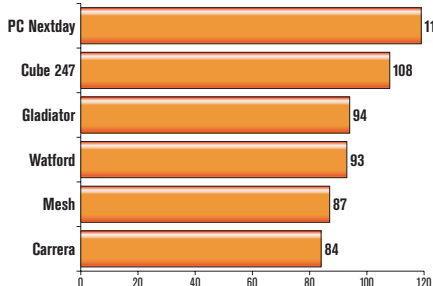
2D Performance **Shopper application tests**

Image-Editing Test



SETTINGS We run our application tests at 1,024x768 resolution and in 32-bit colour
WEB www.computershopper.co.uk

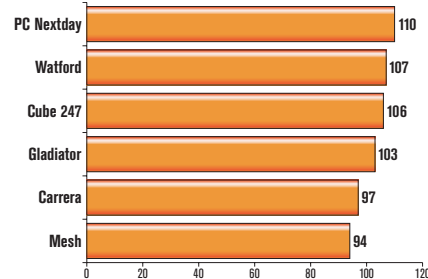
Video-Encoding Test



Shopper's 2D benchmarks show how PCs stand up to the toughest tasks Windows can throw at them. Today's PCs have no problem running office applications such as Word, so we focus our tests on areas where you could experience difficulties.

In version 1.0 there are three scripts. Our image-editing test simulates a session of photo enhancement using Paint Shop Pro, culminating in the memory-intensive composition of a panorama

Overall

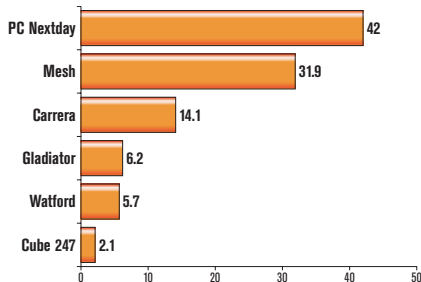


from a set of digital snaps. Encoding a short video to MPEG2 format is extremely processor-intensive, and anyone who's interested in transferring home videos to DVD will have to tackle this. Finally, a set of MP3s is generated by ripping an audio CD.

We compiled the tests with the help of our sister magazine for performance computing, *Custom PC*. Figures are relative to a reference Evesham Athlon 64 3500+ system, which scores 100 in all tests.

3D Performance **Doom 3/3DMark03**

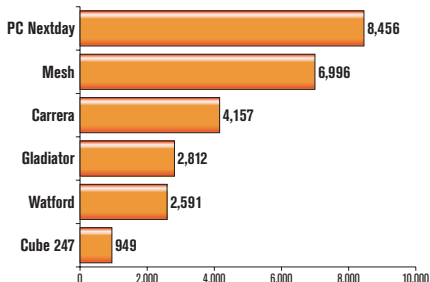
Doom 3 (fps)



SETTINGS 1,024x768 resolution, high quality, 4x AA
WEB www.doom3.com

We run a timed demo in Doom 3 to test whether a PC has the power needed to play cutting-edge 3D games with ease. A good score here means that it should cope with any graphically intense 3D game.

3DMark03

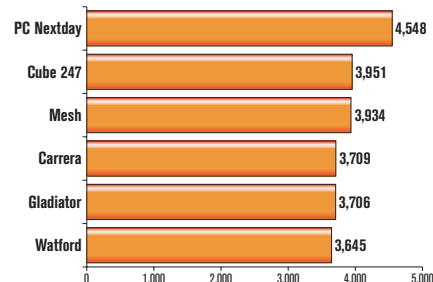


SETTINGS 1,024x768 resolution, 32-bit colour, default settings
WEB www.futuremark.com

3DMark03 is Futuremark's 3D benchmark. It comprises four game tests from four different genres. The workload is representative of games coming on to the market now.

PCMark04

PCMark04



SETTINGS 1,024x768 resolution, 32-bit colour, default settings
WEB www.futuremark.com

As well as our own benchmarks, we test all desktop and notebook PCs using Futuremark's PCMark04. You can download a free version of this benchmark from www.futuremark.com/download.

LABS VERDICT **£600 PCs**

This month's PC group test demonstrates how much you can get for a modest sum of money. Gladiator's Jupiter deserves credit for being the only PC to include an SLI-capable motherboard. Although its current 3D performance is fairly tame, the SLI option makes the Jupiter an attractive buy for those wishing to add gaming power in the future.

Carrera's Vision Plus CS-04 is aptly named as it comes with easily the best monitor of the group. Combined with an attractive case, this is the system to buy if you value style and comfort above cutting-edge performance.

But the real bargain here is PC Nextday's Zoostorm 3-4301 Versatile PC. It combines above-average Windows performance with real 3D power, which is a rarity in such an affordable PC. The large case provides plenty of expansion options and although the motherboard could do with more memory sockets, its twin PCI Express x16 slots give you the option of adding an extra graphics card and monitor in the future. While it may not be perfect, the Zoostorm Versatile PC is a great deal and a deserving winner of our Best Buy award.

PC NEXTDAY Zoostorm 3-4301 Versatile PC





MANUFACTURER	CARRERA	CUBE 247	GLADIATOR	MESH	PC NEXTDAY	WATFORD
Model	Vision Plus CS-04	Zeta ST4	Jupiter 2 6200	Matrix Prestige CSX	Zoostorm 3-4301 Versatile PC	Aries Performa 5562 CS-04
Rating	★★★★	★★★	★★★★	★★★	★★★★★	★★
Processor	AMD Athlon 64 3000+	Intel Pentium 4 630	AMD Athlon 64 3200+	AMD Athlon 64 3200+	Intel Pentium 4 531	AMD Athlon 64 3200+
Processor speed	1.8GHz	3GHz	2GHz	2GHz	3GHz	2GHz
Processor socket	Socket 939	Socket 775	Socket 939	Socket 939	Socket 775	Socket 939
Level I cache	128KB	16KB	128KB	128KB	16KB	128KB
Level II cache	512KB	2MB	512KB	512KB	1MB	512KB
Memory installed	512MB	512MB	1GB	512MB	512MB	512MB
Memory type	PC3200	PC3200	PC3200	PC3200	PC3200	PC3200
Maximum memory	2GB	4GB	4GB	4GB	2GB	2GB
Motherboard	Foxconn CK804K8MA-KS	EQS M55P9-MLF	Gigabyte GA-K8N-SLI	Asus A8N-VM	ECS 915PL-A2	Foxconn CK804K8MA-KS
Motherboard chipset	nVidia nForce 4	ATI RS400	nVidia nForce 4 SLI	nVidia GeForce 6100 + nForce 410	Intel 915PL	Intel nForce 4
Memory bus speed	200MHz	200MHz	200MHz	200MHz	200MHz	200MHz
BIOS	Phoenix	Phoenix Award	Phoenix Award	AMI	AMI	Phoenix
PORTS						
USB2 ports (front/rear)	2/4	2/10	2/4	2/4	3/4	2/4
FireWire ports (front/rear)	0/0	0/1	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0
Networking	10/100/1,000	10/100	10/100/1,000	10/100/1,000	10/100	10/100/1,000
Legacy ports	Parallel, 2x PS/2, serial	Parallel, 2x PS/2, serial	Parallel, 2x PS/2, serial	Parallel, 2x PS/2, serial	Parallel, 2x PS/2, serial	Parallel, 2x PS/2, serial
INTERNAL EXPANSION						
Case	Midi tower	Midi tower	Midi tower	Midi tower	Midi tower	Midi tower
Case size HxWxD	495x235x460mm	410x190x440mm	408x185x445mm	375x180x390mm	410x190x440mm	435x202x480mm
PCI (free)	2 (1)	2 (1) (blocked by risers)	2 (2)	2 (0)	1 (1)	2 (1)
PCI-E x1 (free)	1 (1)	1 (1) (blocked by risers)	1 (1)	1 (1)	1 (1)	1 (1)
PCI-E x16 (free)	1 (0)	1 (1) (blocked by risers)	2 (1)	1 (0)	2 (1)	1 (0)
AGP (free)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Serial ATA (free)	4 (3)	4 (3)	4 (3)	2 (1)	4 (3)	4 (3)
Memory (free)	2 (0)	4 (3)	4 (2)	4 (3)	2 (0)	2 (0)
Drive bays 3½" (free)	4 (3)	6 (5)	7 (5)	3 (2)	6 (5)	5 (4)
Drive bays 5¼" (free)	5 (4)	4 (3)	4 (3)	2 (1)	4 (3)	5 (4)
HARD DISK						
Model	Maxtor DiamondMax 10 6V160E0	Seagate Barracuda 7200.7 ST3200822AS	Western Digital WD1600JS-23MH80	Maxtor DiamondMax 10 6L160M0	Maxtor DiamondMax 10 6L160M0	Maxtor DiamondMax 10 6L200M0
Interface	SATA 150	SATA 150	SATA 300	SATA 150	SATA 150	SATA 150
Capacity	160GB	200GB	160GB	160GB	160GB	200GB
Spin speed	7,200rpm	7,200rpm	7,200rpm	7,200rpm	7,200rpm	7,200rpm
GRAPHICS						
Technology	PCI Express	Integrated	PCI Express	PCI Express	PCI Express	PCI Express
Graphics card	GeCube ATI Radeon X550	ATI Radeon X300	nVidia GeForce 6200	ATI Radeon X1600 Pro	Inno3D nVidia GeForce 6600GT	Inno3D nVidia GeForce 6500
Graphics chipset	ATI Radeon X550	ATI Radeon X300	nVidia GeForce 6200	ATI Radeon X1600 Pro	nVidia GeForce 6600GT	nVidia GeForce 6500
Graphics memory	256MB	128MB	256MB	512MB	128MB	256MB
Graphics/video ports	DVI, D-sub, S-video out	D-sub, S-video out, composite out	DVI, D-sub	DVI, D-sub	DVI, D-sub, S-video out	DVI, D-sub, S-video out
SOUND						
Sound card	Realtek ALC655	Realtek ALC655	Realtek ALC850	ADI AD1986A	Realtek ALC850	Realtek ALC655
Sound card outputs	5.1 line out	5.1 line out, coaxial S/PDIF out	7.1 line out, coaxial S/PDIF out	5.1 line out	7.1 line out	5.1 line out
Speakers	Creative Sound Blaster SBS 260 2.0	Logitech S-100 2.0	Logitech S-100 2.0	Creative Sound Blaster SBS 260 2.0	Zoostorm S2176 2.1	Monitor speakers
REMOVABLE DRIVES						
Floppy drive 3½"	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Memory card reader	No	No	CompactFlash, Secure Digital, MultiMedia Card, Memory Stick, Smart Media, MicroDrive	No	CompactFlash, Secure Digital, MultiMedia Card, Memory Stick, Smart Media, MicroDrive	No
Optical drive	LG GSA-4167B (16X DVD+R, 16X DVD-R, 8X DVD+RW, 6X DVD-RW, 5X DVD-RAM, 8X DVD+R DL, 4X DVD-R DL, 48X CD-R, 32X CD-RW, 16X DVD, 48X CD)	NEC ND-4550 (16X DVD+R, 16X DVD-R, 8X DVD+RW, 6X DVD-RW, 8X DVD+R DL, 6X DVD-R DL, 48X CD-R, 32X CD-RW, 16X DVD, 48X CD)	Samsung SH-W16Z (16X DVD+R, 16X DVD-R, 8X DVD+RW, 6X DVD-RW, 5X DVD+R DL, 4X DVD-R DL, 48X CD-R, 32X CD-RW, 16X DVD, 48X CD)	Sony DW-Q30A (16X DVD+R, 16X DVD-R, 8X DVD+RW, 6X DVD-RW, 8X DVD+R DL, 4X DVD-R DL, 48X CD-R, 24X CD-RW, 16X DVD, 48X CD)	Lite-On SHW-160P6S (16X DVD+R, 16X DVD-R, 8X DVD+RW, 6X DVD-RW, 8X DVD+R DL, 4X DVD-R DL, 48X CD-R, 24X CD-RW, 16X DVD, 48X CD)	LG GSA-4167B (16X DVD+R, 16X DVD-R, 8X DVD+RW, 6X DVD-RW, 5X DVD-RAM, 8X DVD+R DL, 4X DVD-R DL, 48X CD-R, 32X CD-RW, 16X DVD, 48X CD)
DISPLAY						
Size and technology	19" LCD	17" LCD	17" LCD	17" LCD	17" LCD	17" LCD
Model	AG Neovo F-419	AMW M179D	Hyundai Image Quest B70a	ViewSonic VE710b	AMW M179D	Suyama MJ9C
Native resolution	1,280x1,024	1,280x1,024	1,280x1,024	1,280x1,024	1,280x1,024	1,280x1,024
Response time	12ms	8ms	8ms	8ms	8ms	25ms
Inputs	DVI, D-sub	DVI, D-sub	D-sub	Captive D-sub	DVI, D-sub	DVI, D-sub
OTHER HARDWARE						
Modem	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
Keyboard	Microsoft Basic Keyboard 1.0a	Logitech Internet Pro	Logitech Deluxe Keyboard	Logitech Desktop Keyboard	Genius Comfy KB-06X Black PS/2 Keyboard	Microsoft Basic Keyboard 1.0a
Mouse	Microsoft Basic Optical Mouse 1.0a	Logitech Premium Optical	Logitech Wired Optical Mouse	Logitech Optical Mouse	Genius NetScroll Black PS/2 Mouse	Microsoft Basic Optical Mouse 1.0a
Keyboard/mouse rating	★★★	★★★	★★★	★★★	★★	★★★
Extras	None	None	None	None	None	None
SOFTWARE						
Software included	Panda Antivirus Platinum, Roxio EasyCD Creator Suite 7, CyberLink PowerDVD 5	Bullguard Internet Security 5, PowerDVD 6, Nero 6	Nero 6	Microsoft Works 8.5, CyberLink PowerDVD 6, CyberLink Power2Go 4, CyberLink PowerProducer 3, CyberLink PowerDirector 3, CyberLink PowerBackup 1.1, CyberLink PowerCinema 4, CyberLink Medi@Show 3	eTrust EZ Antivirus 2005, Nero 6	Panda Antivirus Platinum, Roxio EasyCD Creator Suite 7, CyberLink PowerDVD 5
Operating system	Windows XP Home	Windows XP Home	Windows XP Home	Windows XP Home	Windows XP Home	Windows XP Home
Operating system restore option	Restore CD and partition	Windows CD	Windows CD	Restore CD	Windows CD	Restore CD and partition
BUYING INFORMATION						
Warranty (parts and labour)	One year onsite	One year RTB	One year RTB	Three years RTB	One year RTB	One year onsite
Tech support times	9am-5pm Mon-Fri, 9am-1pm Sat	9am-6pm Mon-Fri	10am-6pm Mon-Fri	9am-5.30pm Mon-Fri	9am-6pm Mon-Fri	9am-5pm Mon-Fri, 9am-1pm Sat
Company founded	1972	1999	1999	1987	1993	1972
Tech support staff	20	7	9	42	3	20
Employees	130	15	16	275	68	130
Price including delivery (inc VAT)	£600	£599	£599	£599	£600	£600
Price including delivery (ex VAT)	£511	£510	£510	£510	£511	£511
Contact	Watford Electronics	Cube Enterprises	Gladiator Computers	Mesh Computers	PC Nextday	Watford Electronics
Phone	08716 661616	08702 421179	08456 446666	08700 464747	Email: sales@pcnextday.co.uk	08716 661616
Web	www.savastore.com	www.cube247.co.uk	www.gladiatorcomputers.com	www.meshcomputers.com	www.pcnextday.co.uk	www.savastore.com